
Recommendation # 285

**Reallocation of Funds for Regulatory Support in FY 2012 Appropriations &
Request for Increase in FY 2013**

Background—In the FY 2011 appropriations, the Department of Energy’s allocation for Community and Regulatory Support was \$18 M. Out of these funds, positions are paid for US Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control staff, whose key responsibilities include being oversight regulators as established by the Federal Facility Agreement. With the decrease of \$8 M in the FY 2012 appropriations for Community and Regulatory Support, some of these key positions may be in jeopardy, which is a grave concern to the Citizens Advisory Board.

The Federal Facility Agreement guides the cleanup of the Savannah River Site and appears to be working well, due to the cooperative spirit of the Department of Energy (DOE), US Environmental Protection Agency, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as well as adequate staff funding. The public understands the complexity of the cleanup process and takes confidence in the oversight provided by regulators who are onsite on a regular basis and ensure that environmental stewardship is on track.

If funding for Regulatory Support is not restored this FY as well as in future years, the Citizens Advisory Board is concerned that the important oversight role of the regulators will be jeopardized, and cleanup could be stalled or priorities misplaced. In addition, public confidence in the cleanup process to restore and protect the environment and the surrounding communities will erode.

Recommendation: The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board recommends that DOE:

- 1) Take steps to restore funding in FY 2012 for regulatory support appropriate to the scope of work needed to meet FY 2012 clean up goals.
- 2) Provide information at the May 2012 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting that describes what steps are being taken to restore the budget for regulatory support.
- 3) Supply, if funding is not restored:
 - a. Details on how the reduced budget would impact the ability of the regulators to be onsite on a regular basis and to maintain the current level of cleanup oversight, and
 - b. Information on strategies that will be initiated to assure that oversight from the regulators is not weakened.
- 4) Make a commitment that the FY 2013 budget will be prepared to restore funding for regulatory support appropriate to the scope of work needed to meet FY 2013 clean up goals.